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THE WORDLESS WORLD

A Jon Jord Adventure By Eardo Binder Whalt, in the name of letusplantury law!

Jon Jaril Attention! Professor Grant, noted Interplanetary explorer, has been missing for a mouth. He was last reported to have landed in the wilds of Oberon, moon of Uranus. Need how If you can Thes Is all?

landed in the wilds of Oberon, moon of Uranus. Find him If you can. That is all? Cruising in his space ship past Saturn, Jon Jarl snapped off the redio and heaved a weary sigh. "That's about the ninety-ninth lost expioner I'va been sent after," be muttered to

jar manpped see the reason and nearest a warsigh. "That's about the minerty-ninth lost explorer I'va been sent after," be muttered to himsalf. "OM stuff, Most of them turn updead. The others have gone native. What a boring assignment."

The Space Policeman shot his ship through the void at high speed and soon reached Uranus and lis five moces. Jon circled down over Oberon, examing list reaches of heren wantes, and wondaring where to look first. The only class was that Professor Grant had claimed, in his first reports, that he had disland, in the first reports, that he had disland, in the first reports, that he had disland.

northern wilds.

Suddanly, Jon saw movement below. Two creatures were fighting, and they were not animals. They atood srect on two legs and wore rough elothing. The native tribe!

Jon hastily landed his ship and ran up to the

Jon hastily landed his ship and raw up to tha two fighters. They were hig powerful brutes, built something like caverano, but looking more intelligent. Their clothing was credely handwoven, and the weapons with which they asvagely fought each other were long swords. What were three fighting about? Jon raw ny, yilling for them to stop. As a Space Policeman, his duty was to halt all such battles. The

yelling for them to stop. As a Space Policeman, his duty was to halt all such battles. The men turned in surprise for a moment, staring blankly, and then returned to their fight, marring his animals.

Obviously they didn't know the Earth language at all. Jon turned on his Teleoathy

singuage at all. Jon turned on his Telepathy Tramlator, a small intricate device which had the power to translate automatically any language in the universe both ways. Even though Jon yelled in Earth-language, the translator would now yell out his words in old language. Jon commanded. "I'm a Space Policement It you don't stop instantly, I'll be forced to draw my ray-gun and open fire on you both!"
But to Jon's amazament, the two Oberon man kept right on fighting, completely lighered by warning. Jon was baffled. Were they deaf? But no, they had turned before at this first yall. Scentishing was very strangs about

his first yall. Something was very strange about the whole thing. They didn't aven answer hism. They just ignored him as though he had spoken gibberish. Grimly, Jon now shot his ray-gun, but he shot it between them, into the ground, making

the dirt fly in a smoking blast. The fighters staggared back, frightened. At least they understood a powerful waspon! They stood spart, punting, staring at Jon. "All right," Jon said through the Telepathy

They stood apart, panting, staring at Jon. "All right," Jon said through the Telepathy Translator. "What are you fighting about? Well, come on, speak up?"
But the two men only stared at him blankly, puzzled, as if they understood not a word. Jon ramed. The translator must be given out their cost their

own language. How in the universe could hep fall to understand it? Jon tried again speaking slowly and distinctly. Suddenly, he realized what was wrong. The Telepathy Translator was allent. He hadre noticed it before, Jon gasped. There could be only on a reason why that translator was unable to consense they have translatory to be a supplication of the consense they have the consense the consense they have the consense the

bafors. Jon gasped. There could be only one reason why the translator was unable to communicate his words to the two men. They had no language!

Jon was utterly dumbfounded. On Earth, the first orchistoric men had used erunts to

the first prehistoric men had used grunts to make known their desires, and these had quickly formed and avolved into spoken hanguage. And so it had been on all other worlds, with all other peoples. But here on Obrece, language had never been invented at all!

Routine? Old stuff? This was turning out to be one of the most fantastic adventures of Jon Juri's exciting career in outer speed. A world without language! People who wove cloth and forged iron and made swords—yet who were utter duranties and could out speak one world! People who could not even say "hallo" to sech other, for they had not yet invented any alphabet, or grammer, or eny words at all! Ion was stunned. There wasn't even any way for him to find out what these man had been at least, through crude alep language. Ion was able to make restures telling them to so their accurate ways and forget the fight. Respecting the nower of his ray-run, the two men sullenly

more caves dotting the landscape, and in front realized what it meant doubt they robbed and raided each other's

caves at times, the strongest lording it over the weak. They had naver formed tribes or villages, to live together in peace and security How could they-without a language? With-

out words, this errested civilization would never develop into a co-operative peaceful society.

Suddenly, es he watched, Jon saw e man leap out of his cave and kill a deer-like creature for food. Instently, enother man ren out of his nearby cave and attempted to steel it. Before the two men could slash at each other with their swords, Jon ran up and clubbed them both down with his ray-gun butt. While they were out cold, Jon sawed the carcass in half and Inid a half beside each

How simple it would be for them to come to such peaceful agreements themselves-if they could only ralk to each other. But without civilized language, they were hardly better than the savage beests of the field, fighting

tooth and claw Suddenly Ion remembered-Professor Grent l He had come here to find the missing ex-

plorer. Was he slive nearby? Ion grouned, "What a crary world?" he said aloud. "How can I ever locate the explorer, dead or alive, when I can't even ask questions of these people? The professor might be a mile away and I'd never find out. How important language is 1 Without it, I feel completely

lost, belpless?" Jon wandered on hopelessly. "Help!"

Ion whirled. That one word, ringing out in this world without speech, was like the blast of a bomb. Jon ren toward the sound and came upon a spece ship which had crashed into the ground, but was not completely wracked. The hatchway was open and the yell sounded from inside. Professor Grant's Ion desited in and sew a bulking Oberon

man sleshing with his sword at the explorer, Ion levelled his ray-gun, but the ettacker whirled and knocked the gun out of his hand Then, sperlang, he isbbed at Jon with his sword. Ion leaped aside, avoiding the blade, and swung with all his might as the attacker lunged off-balance. The man fell unconscious "Hello, professor," Jon grinned, "I'll bet you're glad to hear words again, after being

merconed on this wordless world for a month." than snoke haltingly, "Speech! Words! What blessed sounds! I've almost forgotten how to my life but for saving this world from word-

The explorer held up a sheaf of papers, contimping, "you see, for the past month, I've been inventing a language for these poor people. A simple alphabet and language that they already, and the children will apread it to their parents. It took thousands of years for prehistoric man to evolve a language. But I'll give it to these people in one fell swoop, in a

66 GREAT, professor," Jon said. "Almost overnight this bickering savage world will become civilized, through language, I'll send back helpers and guards for you, when I

" As Ion's ship sped away from Oberon, he grinned wryly, "I'm coming back a year from now myself. I want to find out what those two men I first met were fighting about. I've just

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